

For Book on Reds' Army Tourist Wasn't Spying, Just Collecting Material

VIENNA, Oct. 18 (AP). — A

young American tourist said today he was convicted of espionage in the Soviet Union after he admitted traveling through Russia to gather material for a book on Soviet preparations for war.

Mark I. Kaminsky, twenty-six, whose family lives on a farm near Miles, Mich., arrived here last night from the Soviet Union, where he received a seven-year sentence Sept. 16 on spy charges.

The Russians suspended the sentence and expelled Mr. Kaminsky and his traveling companion, Harvey C. Bennett, twenty-six, of Tracy, Calif., who had been held as a witness.

The two Americans came here by way of Czechoslovakia. They left for home tonight on a plane which made a stop at Zurich.

Denies Spying

"They told me it would be foolish not to plead guilty," Mr. Kaminsky told a news conference here today. "They gave me a lawyer. He was not of much assistance, but he cheered me up. He advised me to confess to the charges. I did so heartedly and left the court very remorseful. He stressed the point that it was a very 'morseful' time and a very 'morseful' time and a very 'morseful' time."

"I did not carry out espionage, nor did I confess to espionage," Mr. Kaminsky said. "I did confess, though, that I was getting material for a book."

Photos Confiscated

He explained later that under Soviet law it is considered espionage to gather the material for the book collected — "such facts as the location of its headquarters, that there are soldiers everywhere in Russia." He said the subject of the survey was: "The Soviet Union Talks Peace While Preparing for War."

He added that he took pictures of soldiers, radio antennae and trains, but not for espionage purposes. The Russians confiscated the photographs.

Mr. Kaminsky, a big, heavy-set man in a light-blue suit, said the Russians had treated him well, although they subjected him to questioning up to eight hours a day.

Gave a Promise

He said they extracted a promise from him not to write the book, but he was not certain what he would do now.

"It's not that I think promises made under duress don't count," he said. "I simply have not made up my mind."

Tourist Activity

The Soviet news agency Tass said Mr. Kaminsky admitted gathering information on troop concentrations, radio and power station locations, military camps and their approach roads, and details about bridges, railway stations and industrial centers for use in a "slandorous" book about the Soviet Union.

Tass also reported that Mr. Bennett denounced Mr. Kaminsky as a spy during the trial. Mr. Bennett denied this and said:

"I explained to the Russians that Mark was writing a book and that was why he gathered information. But I had to agree that this was not the sort of activity a normal tourist would do."

At Zurich, upon his arrival with Mr. Bennett, Mr. Kaminsky said, according to United Press International: "We most emphatically deny we were doing anything that a Soviet tourist could not do in the United States."

Both said they made the trip under scholarships of \$500 each from the North American Educational Fund in Philadelphia. An American lawyer for the fund has refused to name the group's backers or the location of its headquarters.

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quarters. Tass called it a "spy organization."

Mr. Bennett and Mr. Kaminsky were the latest in a series of American tourists arrested as spies this summer after the trial of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers on espionage charges.

Treatment "Too Good"

Mr. Kaminsky said Mr. Powers' name came up many times during the questioning, but the Russians also were clearly afraid that his case might have a bad effect on American tourism in the Soviet Union.

"The treatment simply was too good," he said. "The guards fell over themselves to do things for me."

Both Mr. Bennett and Mr. Kaminsky speak Russian, and Mr. Kaminsky was to have started work as an instructor in the language this fall at Purdue University in Indiana. Mr. Bennett said he was graduated from the University of California at Berkeley.

The two Americans, who entered the Soviet Union on July 27, were arrested Aug. 25. Mr. Kaminsky's one-day trial was held Sept. 16.

Election Talk

"There was a good deal of humor at the trial and the 100 spectators laughed often," Mr. Kaminsky said. He added that he got into long private discussions with the prosecutor, but the main topic was: "Who will win the elections, Nixon or Kennedy?"

The Americans were released last Thursday and crossed into Czechoslovakia yesterday. The American Embassy in Vienna today persuaded them to tell their side of the story at the headquarters here of the United States Information Agency.



Associated Press radiophoto

EXPULSED FROM RUSSIA — American tourists, Harvey C. Bennett (left), of Tracy, Calif., and Mark I. Kaminsky, of Niles, Mich., at news conference in